

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
1/13/08 – 1/26/08

DISTRICT 1

CO Marv Gerlach was the first responder on the scene of a multiple vehicle accident near Menominee. Two trucks collided head on. Both drivers were wearing their seatbelts and walked away from the crash with minor injuries.

CO Ryan Aho stopped a snowmobile for operating against the flow of traffic on a state highway. It was determined that the operator was operating the snowmobile while intoxicated and was operating on a revoked license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Bill Webster was returning from a late night snowmobile patrol and stopped to assist the driver of a vehicle stuck in a snow bank. CO Webster's investigation determined that the operator was under the influence of liquor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster was traveling on M-77 when he observed two snowmobiles operating on the shoulder of the road and headed directly toward him at a high rate of speed. CO Webster investigated and determined that the operators were illegally traveling over 70 miles per hour. Enforcement action was taken.

Two subjects who were convicted of the illegal operation of a vehicle causing severe damage in a wetland last summer on Drummond Island were sentenced by the Chippewa County Court. Each subject was ordered to pay a total of \$2,655 in fines and court costs. They were both sentenced to serve five days in jail, and provide the court with a Department of Environmental Quality approved plan to remediate the damaged land and pay for the remediation. They are also required to provide a letter of public apology for publication in the Drummond Island Digest.

COs Kyle Publiski and Derek Miller were first on the scene of two separate personal injury snowmobile accidents on the snowmobile trails. One CO transported emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to the first accident scene on their patrol sled. The adult male operator was severely injured and remains hospitalized. At the second accident scene, a 10 year-old juvenile was ambulatory, but complaining of head and neck pain. He was also transported by EMS personnel to the hospital. In both instances, the operators of the machines were operating too fast, lost control, left the snowmobile trail, and struck fixed objects.

DISTRICT 3

While patrolling snowmobile trails, CO Andrea Erratt observed an oncoming snowmobiler carelessly passing other snowmobiles at a high rate of speed. CO Erratt

investigated and issued one ticket for careless operation and numerous tickets for operating snowmobiles with expired registrations.

A snowmobile fatality occurred in Cheboygan County when a snowmobiler was traveling on a county road, went off the road, and struck a tree. He was not wearing a helmet.

CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski followed up on a “tame” deer complaint, discovering the subjects had raised a fawn since early June. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Feagan received complaints on a portion of a snowmobile trail that has special regulations enacted. Utilizing the radar unit, CO Feagan issued tickets for speeding, failing to stop prior to crossing a public road, careless operation, and registration and trail permit violations.

COs Richard Stowe and Kelly Ross followed up on a complaint from deer season, received a confession, and ticketed a subject for hunting deer without a license.

CO Joe Molnar reported that the illegal killing of an elk case from last deer season resulted in \$2,400 in fines and costs, restitution, and a three year hunting license revocation.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall contacted an unregistered snowmobile operator because he was not displaying the proper trail permit. The operator had no identification and refused to cooperate with the COs. Since the subject could not be properly identified, he was lodged in the county jail. The subject will face charges for felony resist and obstruct, commit a felony with a snowmobile, provide false identification to a law enforcement officer, and operate a snowmobile without registration or trail permit attached.

CO Andrea Albert and local sheriff’s deputies worked a group snowmobile patrol. CO Albert attempted to stop a snowmobile when the operator fled. CO Albert caught up to the subject and investigated him for operating a snowmobile while impaired. The subject had a blood alcohol level of .22%. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Troy VanGelderren responded to a complaint in Oceana County where a subject was observed shooting at two pheasants from inside a vehicle. CO VanGelderren investigated the complaint and located two individuals who admitted illegally killing the birds. Enforcement action was taken.

In separate instances, CO’s Mike Bomay and Ryan Rademacher contacted coyote hunters who had loaded and uncased firearms in their motor vehicles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells conducted a taxidermy inspection on a subject in Newaygo County. Several untagged and illegal specimens were discovered, including; a doe taken during the muzzleloading season, a red tail hawk, and two spotted fawns. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller found five tip-ups frozen into the ice. He followed tracks to a residence, but was unable to contact the residents. CO Mueller's investigation led him to a different lake where he found two subjects who admitted to setting the tip-ups a few days earlier on the previous lake. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski encountered two subjects drag racing snowmobiles side by side down the middle of a road in rural Manistee County. The two snowmobiles fled after seeing the COs activate their emergency lights. The COs investigated and identified the subjects who fled. The subjects contacted CO Converse the following day and turned themselves in. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Borkovich, Justin Vanderlinde, and Brad Dohm assisted at the scene of a fatal snowmobile accident in Leelanau County. The 40 year old male victim was traveling at a high rate of speed and hit a mogul in the trail and lost control of his snowmobile.

CO Jair Kollasch investigated a fatal snowmobile/car accident where the snowmobile was struck by a vehicle while trying to cross M-55. The 36 year old female operator passed away at the hospital. CO Kollasch was contacted later that same night to assist with two more snowmobile accidents.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted the operator of a snowmobile in Wexford County who appeared to be operating while intoxicated. After further investigation, the operator admitted to be under the influence of narcotics. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski reports that a subject who was arrested for using a restricted kill tag on a deer with less than four points on a side was sentenced in court. The subject was ordered to pay \$300 fines and costs, \$1000 restitution, and serve five days in jail.

COs Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch followed up on a complaint that stated there were three untagged deer in Wexford County. After further investigation and locating the untagged deer, the COs received a confession from one subject who confessed to taking two of the deer with a muzzleloader during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Diane Drogowski and Robert Torres worked at a roadway snowmobile trail intersection in Grand Traverse County that was the site of a fatal snowmobile accident in 2007. The COs videotaped numerous violations using their digital camera including; disobeying traffic control devices, operating against the flow of traffic, operating on the main traveled portion of the roadway, and operating without a trail permit or registration sticker. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

After a lengthy investigation, CO Chuck McPherson apprehended two subjects illegally cutting firewood on state land and adjoining private property. Enforcement action was taken.

District 5 COs worked the two weekend Tip-Up Town festival in Houghton Lake. The COs responded to numerous complaints, assisted at a number of snowmobile accidents, arrested a few individuals on warrants, and wrote over 150 tickets for illegal fishing and snowmobile activity.

CO Joel Lundberg stopped to investigate suspicious activity and located two subjects hiding under cedar trees near a culvert. CO Lundberg's investigation revealed a number of untagged traps set on private property without permission. The investigation also revealed that the two subjects had been dropped off by a third party and were waiting to be picked up. Enforcement action was taken on all three subjects.

CO Brian Olsen contacted a group of hunters who had taken a bobcat and did not immediately tag the feline. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill received a complaint of illegal live traps set for rabbits on state land. CO MacNeill's investigation revealed that the subject who placed the illegal traps was releasing the rabbits in an illegal enclosure. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill was contacted regarding a trapping trespass complaint and found illegal snares on private property. CO MacNeill's investigation revealed a subject who confessed to the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steven Lockwood received information from the local sheriff's department of fresh deer blood on a vehicle. CO Lockwood investigated and obtained a confession from a subject that the deer was taken with a rifle during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Chad Foerster assisted the local deputies with an investigation of illegal activity by subjects hunting coyote. The investigation produced four firearms, two of which were uncased and loaded and one was an M-15 assault rifle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was working subjects hunting coyotes late at night when he came across a group in the Crow Island State Game Area. All of the subjects' firearms were illegally loaded while they were hunting after dark. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Houghton Lake, COs Nick Atkin and Steve Lockwood contacted an angler who had in his possession an overlimit of pike, two of which were undersize. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, COs Chad Foerster and Nick Atkin contacted two subjects hunting coyotes. The subjects were not wearing hunter orange, and further investigation revealed two loaded and uncased firearms in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Ivan Perez assisted Ottawa County Sheriff's Department deputies in the search for evidence stemming from a home invasion where the suspect fired a shot as he was fleeing from the deputies. CO Perez used his skills with a metal detector to recover a spent handgun shell casing from deep snow. The investigation continues.

CO Patrick McManus assisted sheriff's deputies with a traffic stop involving two subjects who were in possession of loaded rifles in their vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Mshar and Chuck Towns investigated an unlicensed taxidermist found over 70 untagged specimens in the subject's possession. The investigation led to five other states; including an illegal white-tailed buck from Wyoming, and illegally possessed furbearing animals from South Carolina. Other violations included the illegal possession of a spotted fawn and a red-headed woodpecker. Enforcement action was taken against the taxidermist, while the out of state investigations continue.

CO Gary Raak investigated a complaint where a homeowner stated that his dog was bitten by his neighbor's pet coyote. Further investigation revealed that the coyote was raised from a pup which was illegally taken from the wild. The coyote was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Payne and Sgt. Dave Shaw assisted Canadian officers with the investigation of a subject who brought a standing, full body mount of a polar bear into Michigan illegally from Canada. The mount was located and seized from the suspect's residence. The investigation continues.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jeff Goss was checking goose hunters at the close of shooting hours when he heard four shots well after hunting hours ended. Upon further investigation, CO Goss located a subject hunting after hours who was in possession of two shotguns and lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road with a freshly killed coyote inside. CO Goss investigated and located a subject hunting without a license who wasn't wearing any hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a trespass complaint where four subjects were goose hunting on a river. CO Bigger observed the boat navigating the river after dark with no navigation lights displayed. CO Bigger contacted the subjects and found numerous

violations including no life jackets, no licenses, no navigation lights, and trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a complaint of coyote hunters trespassing on private property. CO Bigger's investigation revealed several vehicles that contained uncased and loaded firearms. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright completed an investigation from information received last year about a subject that was trapping illegally. The investigation included running a LEIN inquiry which revealed an outstanding warrant on the subject for assaulting a police officer. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Brewer and Eric Bottorff received a complaint about subjects shooting guns from their vehicle while driving down the road. The investigation revealed six uncased firearms, three of which were loaded in the subject's vehicle. The COs also discovered that the three subjects had been coyote hunting but two did not possess the proper licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Ken Kovach observed a vehicle parked on railroad property in northern Lapeer County. CO Kovach contacted two subjects who were wearing hunter orange and carrying shotguns as they were trespassing on the railroad tracks. One subject stated he was small game hunting, while the other subject stated he was carrying the shotgun for his partner. Enforcement action was taken.

COs John Borkovich and Gerard Goulette were patrolling northern St. Clair County when they observed the operator of a vehicle traveling toward them throw a bag of garbage out the driver's window. The COs turned around and contacted the driver who admitted to littering. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson tracked down a subject who dumped a large quantity of garbage in the Lapeer State Game Area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacelle Rabon and Sgt. Art Green investigated a subject who was selling raccoons in front of a gas station in the City of Detroit. The subject had 27 raccoons in his possession and did not possess the proper permits or licenses to have the raccoons. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively responded to a complaint of two subjects dressed all in black and trespassing while hunting coyotes in Oakland County. CO Shively tracked down one of the subjects and obtained a confession. Both subjects have had numerous recreational trespass tickets within the last three years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively assisted the Michigan State Police with a highly intoxicated subject making threatening phone calls to 911 in Oakland County. After dealing with the

complaint, the head of an untagged three point buck was located hanging outside the residence. The subject did not have a license and insisted he was only using the deer for coyote bait. Further investigation produced two grocery bags full of packaged venison in his freezer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a Report All Poaching complaint regarding overlimits of fish being taken from a small lake in northeast Oakland County. CO Kieft contacted one subject who had an overlimit of crappie and bluegill in his possession. The subject also admitted to taking twice his limit the day before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted Oakland County Sheriff's Department deputies on a traffic stop involving a pickup truck swerving all over the road. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the subject was transporting an untagged deer, illegally transporting a handgun, in possession of marijuana, and had purchased too many deer hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.